

## Message Text

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54

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

SAM-01 /081 W

----- 050145

R 291420Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6331

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS KUWAIT 4596

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SY, KU, LE, IZ

SUBJECT: PALESTINIAN SPOKESMEN ON DAMASCUS HOTEL INCIDENT  
AND NEW SYRIAN OFFENSIVE IN LEBANON

1. IN SEPARATE INTERVIEWS IN KUWAIT DAILY PRESS SEPT 29,  
PLO LEADER KHALID AL HASSAN AND SALIM ZANUN, FATAH REP IN KUWAIT,  
REPORTEDLY EXPRESSED FOLLOWING VIEWS:

A. AL ANBA REPORTS AL HASSAN AS SAYING THAT THOSE WHO  
ATTACHED SEMIRAMIS HOTEL IN DAMASCUS WERE ENGAGED IN TERRORISM  
MOTIVATED BY UNREASONABLE NEGATIVESM AND EMOTIONAL REACTION TO  
"PALESTINIAN TRAGEDY," WHICH HE CHARACTERIZED AS STEMMING FROM  
"TEEN-AGE INTELLECTS" WITHIN PALESTINIAN SPLINTER GROUP LED BY  
ABU NIDAL. AL HASSAN ATTACHED SPLINTER GROUP FOR "LURING  
STUDENTS" TO PARTICIPATE IN TERRORIST ACTIVITIES, REPEATED  
FATAH POSITION AGAINST TERRORISM OUTSIDE PALESTINIAN HOMELAND,  
ASSERTED THAT FATAH LEADERSHIP HAD NO PRIOR KNOWLEDGE OF  
SEMIRAMIS ATTACK PLAN, AND CHASTIZED ABU NIDAL FOR USING FATAH  
NAME FALSELY. AL HASSAN ALSO EXPRESSED HOPE THAT SEMIRAMIS INCI-  
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DENT WOULD NEITHER BE EXAGGERATED BY MIDDLE EAST PRESS NOR COME  
TO SERVE AS EXCUSE TO "BLOW UP" PROGRESS TOWARD SETTLEMENT OF



LEBANESE CONFLICT. IN APPARENT REFERENCE TO IRAQI-SYRIAN RELATIONS AND  
D  
IRAQI SUPPORT FOR ABU NIDAL GROUP, AL HASSAN BITTERLY REMARKED THAT  
"BLOOD OF PALESTINIAN MEN" IS BEING SHED TO SETTLE SCORES OF NO  
CONCERN TO PALESTINIAN MOVEMENT.

B. AL SIYASAH REPORTS ZANUN AS CONDEMNING SYRIAN "SURPRISE"  
ATTACHS OF SEPT. 28 ON LEBANESE AND PALESTINIAN FORCES, WHICH WERE  
DESIGNED TO FORCE UNACCEPTABLE OPTIONS ON PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE--  
DEPENDENCY ON SYRAIN GOOD WILL OR DESTRUCTION OF PALESTINIAN REVOLU-  
TION. ZANUN NOTED THAT ARAFAT CALLED ON VARIOUS ARAB LEADERS FOR HELP  
IN FACE OF NEW SYRIAN ATTACKS BUT REMARKED THAT THIS MAY BE "CRY  
IN THE WILDERNESS," SINCE, DURING COLOMBO NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE,  
FATAH LEARNED OF SYRIAN DETERMINATION TO FORCE "MILITARY SOLUTION"  
TO LEBANESE PROBLEM. ZANUN CHARACTERIZED ARAB LEAGUE PEACE-  
KEEPING FORCES IN LEBANON AS WEAK, INEFFECTIVE, AND NO  
MORE THAN A "COURTESY". MAESTRONE

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## Message Attributes

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